

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (New Claim)

A sheet feeding apparatus comprising:

(a) a sheet feeding roller for feeding an uppermost sheet of stacked sheets one by one;

(b) an air outlet through which air is blown toward the stacked sheets in a direction perpendicular to a sheet feeding direction; and

(c) a floatation suppression member provided between the air outlet and the sheet feeding roller with respect to the sheet feeding direction for suppressing floatation of the sheets.

Claim 8 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of claim 7, wherein the floatation suppression member is spaced apart from an upper surface of the stacked sheets.

Claim 9 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of claim 7, wherein the air is blown toward the upper part of the stacked sheets.

Claim 10 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 7, comprising a sensor for detecting a height of uppermost surface of the stacked sheets,

wherein the sheet surface sensor is disposed adjacent to the sheet feeding roller and the floatation suppression member is located between the air outlet and the sheet surface sensor in the sheet feeding direction.

Claim 11 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 7, comprising an elevator for raising and lowering the stacked sheets.

Claim 12 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 7, comprising a lateral adjusting member for adjusting a position of the stacked sheets in a direction intersecting with the sheet feeding direction.

Claim 13 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 12, wherein lateral adjusting member is movable in a direction intersecting with the sheet feeding direction.

Claim 14 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the lateral adjusting member has the floatation suppression member.

Claim 15 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the floatation suppression member is retractable.

Claim 16 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 7, comprising a rear end adjusting member for adjusting the rear end of the sheets.

Claim 17 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the floatation suppression member is movable in the direction of the width of the sheets.

Claim 18 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 7, comprising a fan for blowing air through the air outlet.

Claim 19 (New Claim)

A sheet feeding apparatus comprising:

(a) a sheet feeding roller for feeding an uppermost sheet of stacked sheets one by one;

(b) air outlets through which air is blown toward the stacked sheets in a direction perpendicular to a sheet feeding direction; and

(c) floatation suppression member provided between the air outlet and the sheet feeding roller with respect to the sheet feeding direction for suppressing floatation of the sheets, each of the floatation suppression members being provided corresponding to each of the air outlets respectively.

Claim 20 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the air is blown toward the upper part of the stacked sheets.

Claim 21 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the floatation suppression members are spaced apart from an upper surface of the stacked sheets.

Claim 22 (New Claim)

A sheet feeding apparatus comprising:

(a) a sheet feeding roller for feeding an uppermost sheet of stacked sheets one by one;

(b) an air outlet through which air is blown toward the stacked sheets in a direction perpendicular to a sheet feeding direction;

(c) a floatation suppression member provided between the air outlet and the sheet feeding roller with respect to the sheet feeding direction for suppressing floatation of the sheets; and

(d) lateral adjusting members for adjusting the position of the stacked sheets in a direction perpendicular to the sheet feeding direction, one of the lateral adjusting members having the air outlet.

Claim 23 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the air is blown toward the upper part of the stacked sheets.

Claim 24 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 22, wherein a floatation suppression member is spaced apart from an upper surface of the stacked sheets.

Claim 25 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 22, wherein at least one of the lateral adjusting members has the air outlet.

Claim 26 (New Claim)

The sheet feeding apparatus of Claim 25, comprising a fan for blowing air through the outlet.